[Mr. T. C. Thommen.]

In 1929—Number of members was increased to 12.

In 1932—Number of members was raised to 13 and the post of the head clerk was abolished.

(*e*) Government do not think it necessary to reorganise the Board now.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member whether a mere increase in the number of members will increase the efficiency of the Board ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) ; An increase in the number of members will naturally increase the activities of the Board.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member whether in the reorganisation, permission was given for women being represented on the Board ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : No.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : May I know the reason ?

MR T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Apparently no women came forward.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : A point of order, Sir. I do not understand the answer. Is it that women are expected to apply for the membership in the Development Board ?

PRESIDENT : I am not concerned with the nature of the answer. A supplementary question was put and the Government member answered it and the member who put the question is satisfied and she has resumed her seat. No point of order arises.

MR. K. R. ELANKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member whether in such Boards the difference of sex and communal claims or representations are accepted by Government ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether the Rubber Expert is a member of the Board ?

MR. T C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Not at present.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Will the Government raise the number from 13 to 14 by appointing a lady member when they next reorganise the Board ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): If any women with special interest in the economic development of the country come forward, probably Government may consider the matter.

MR M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know the principle upon which members are appointed to the Board ?

M. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Apparently Government select persons who show special interest in the economic development of the country.

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